

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 497  
By Cross

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Rep. Don Ridgeway for reaching  
the halfway point to his 13th birthday.

WHEREAS, On February 29, 1948, L. Don Ridgeway was born in Paris, Tennessee to  
John T. and Lillie Ruth Call Ridgeway; and

WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway attended the public schools of Henry County, received a  
Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1970,  
and earned a Master of Science Degree in Education Administration and Supervision from that  
institution in 1973; and

WHEREAS, On June 8, 1969 he married Mary Kate Penn of Union City, Tennessee,  
with whom he has a son, John Penn Ridgeway; and

WHEREAS, The Ridgeways made their home in Paris, where Don is involved in the  
insurance business and helps with the family funeral home business; and

WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway has deeply involved himself in the concerns of his  
community, serving as vice president and director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of  
Commerce, president of the Paris Optimist Club, Shriner, Mason, Paris Rotary Club, Elks  
Lodge, chairman of the Henry County School Board, and chairman of the Henry County  
Democratic Party; and

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WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway has been a member of the University of Tennessee board of governors, has been president of the UT-Martin Alumni Association, and belongs to the Country Music Association; and

WHEREAS, In November 1984, L. Don Ridgeway was elected by the voters of the 75<sup>th</sup> House District to represent them in the Tennessee General Assembly; and they have demonstrated their confidence and trust in him by returning him for six more terms; and

WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway's high intelligence, unquestioned abilities, and friendly and approachable manner were soon appreciated by his peers in the General Assembly and by the legislative leadership, resulting in his rise to the offices of Majority Whip, Secretary of the Finance, Ways and means Committee, House Majority Caucus Treasurer, and Majority Caucus Chairman for six years; and

WHEREAS, it is a true tribute to Don that even after his tenure as the redistricting grand poobah, people still like and admire him; and

WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway has been recognized for his excellent service to his fellow human beings in many spheres of endeavor over the years, including Distinguished Service Award by the Paris-Henry County Jaycees, the Distinguished and Devoted Service Award by the Paris-Henry County Senior Citizens, the 1994 Friends of 4-H Award by the Henry County 4-H, the 1995 American Red Cross Extraordinary Personal Action Certificate of Recognition by the American Red Cross, and the 1996 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Human Resources Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Not only has Don Ridgeway endeared himself to the people of the 75<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Henry, Houston, Stewart, and part of Dickson County, and has in the past included Benton and part of Carroll County, but has come to be held in like esteem by his friends and fellow legislators on both sides of the aisle; and

WHEREAS, Don Ridgeway enjoys the love and company of his family, the game of golf, gardening, landscaping and a great fondness for music, which he shares with us on occasion through the medium of his voice raised in song; and

WHEREAS, With his impressive talents and abilities, his friendly and sympathetic personality, the immense degree of trust he has earned from us, we, his friends, can only wonder, counting his birthdays, why it will have taken him more than a half century to become a teenager; and

WHEREAS, Despite such a failing, an able, outgoing, and respected individual such as Don Ridgeway should not be left out from having his important personal occasions observed and celebrated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate L. Don Ridgeway, our friend and compatriot, on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday (conventional count) and express our gratitude to him for his continuing friendship with us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our hope that we might enjoy many more such occasions with him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Ridgeway, with this final clause omitted.